United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1009
1 November 1991

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it extends mandate of United Nations Observer Group in Central America, until 31 April 1992.

◆ Security Council endorses Secretary-General's proposal for military composition of United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia.

◆ Representative of Poland tells Administrative and Budgetary Committee during debate on personnel questions that practice of hiring nationals of same country to fill given post must continue.

◆ General Assembly welcomes projects and events for promotion of peace.

◆ Economic and Financial Committee hears introduction of drafts on promoting entrepreneurship and assistance to Namibia.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has recommended to the Security Council that it renews the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), until the end of next April.

In a report to the Council, dated 28 October, the Secretary-General said although there was relative peace in Nicaragua, and active negotiations were underway to resolve outstanding conflicts in El Salvador and Guatemala, now was not the time to withdraw the United Nations peace-keeping force.

He expressed confidence that the five Central American Governments would achieve rapid progress in arriving at new collective security arrangements in the region and would soon be able to dispense with the need for international verification. In the meantime, he said, in the present "fluid and dynamic situation", he did not think it wise to withdraw the ONUCA or further reduce the scope of its operations.

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Security Council has endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal for the composition of military elements in the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

In a letter of 31 October, the President of the Council for the month of October, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan (India), said Council Members had agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said in a letter to the Council President on 29 October that he had received replies from twenty-two States who has expressed readiness to contribute military personnel to the Mission.

* * *

Eliminating the practice by which the United Nations Secretariat consistently hires nationals of the same country to fill a given post would be premature. That's what the representative of Poland, Jan Woroniecki, told the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), yesterday as it continued debate on personnel questions.

He said that it would prevent representatives of the new democratic regimes in Central and Eastern Europe from getting jobs with the Organization. Instead, he added, it would effectively enable seconded officials from the former Communist regimes to "lock-in" their assignments by getting their contracts renewed.

Mr. Woroniencki said that despite the appeal to increase the number of staff from Member States who do not hold enough posts at the United Nations according to the rules of geographical representation, which is the case with Poland, the opposite was happening. He said consideration of new candidates did not get any positive result, whereas those submitted by the former Communist regimes had no difficulty in getting reappointment.

The Secretary-General has called for an end to the practice of replacement in order to abide by the general rule that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any member country.

* * *

The General Assembly has acknowledged the Secretary-General's designation of more than 400 organizations and cities as "Peace Messengers" for their promotion of world peace.

In adopting a resolution, yesterday, concerning projects and special events initiated for the promotion of peace, the Assembly welcomed the coordinating role of the Peace Studies Unit of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. The resolution, which was introduced by Costa Rica, was adopted without a vote.

A related resolution, welcoming the establishment of the Institute of East-West Dynamics, was also adopted without a vote. Introduced by Poland,

(more)

the resolution recommended that the Institute assist transitional societies in developing their democratic institutions and market mechanisms.

Also yesterday, the Assembly began consideration of the question of restructuring and revitalizing the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. In May, the Assembly had decided to carry out a review of its subsidiary bodies and those of the Economic and Social Council.

* * *

By the terms of a 34-Power draft resolution introduced by the United States this morning in the General Assembly's Economic and Financial Committee (Second), the Assembly would request the United Nations system to increase activities related to the promotion of entrepreneurship and the development of the private sector in interested countries. The Committee was continuing its discussion of special economic and disaster relief assistance.

By the draft, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation would be requested to give attention to the coordination of the promotion of activities, particularly through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and include pertinent information about such economic development activities, notably in small and medium-sized enterprises in his annual development report.

The Committee also heard the introduction of a draft by Ghana, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, which would have the Assembly extend special assistance to Namibia equivalent to that given to a least developed country.

* *** *